

## From Sunup to Sundown

by Oliver G. Wilson, D.D.

in "Wesleyan Methodist"

Learn to live today—all the day through—it may be the last day.

Dale Carnegie has stressed the importance of living in "day-tight compartments"—one day at a time, one task at a time. Anyone can do his work, however hard, for one day. Anyone can live patiently till the sun goes down.

It is important to live today for it will not return for a second try. If we miss its joy and zest we miss it forever.

A woman twenty-four years old was told that her husband, twenty-six years old, would soon die of an incurable disease. To be sure, this was a blow and caused a night of gloom to settle about this pair.

After prayerful meditation they decided they would pack every hour of every day full of helpful service and joyous companionship. They were not careless of a single hour. They lived every day to its full in the face of death. By their wholesome, unselfish living they, according to the doctor's conclusion, added years to the young man's life.

Do we need to be shocked into seeing that so-called ordinary days are precious? Today is all we have. From sunup till sundown let us fill it with life.

We take one another for granted. We let precious experiences, lovely relationships pass as ordinary and thus miss the joys with which they are packed.

See the boys on the vacant lot playing nine innings of baseball. They pack eternity into time. Nothing else exists. Life for them is there. We are to live for eternal values in the present.

You will either have an enjoyable time with life or you will have a life of discontent, and the net result will depend upon your attitude.

I know some good people who are rigidly fair, completely just, ever loyal to truth, but life to them has become humdrum. The beauty of nature, the joy of freedom, the exhilaration of companionship have all lost their appeal. Life has become existence, and drudgery is the level of all activity. At such a time comes the temptation to doubt, to drink, to rush here and there trying to find life's lost chord and to recapture the joy and wonder of youth.

Turn the control of your life over to Christ. Maintain your faith in God's goodness and wisdom. It may not seem so, but these are the times to trust. "He knoweth the way that I take and when he has tried me I shall come forth as gold."

## The Morning Watch

by Maynard James

If I were asked, "What is the most important single factor in Christian living?" I would reply, "The morning watch." To neglect it will bring spiritual disaster; to practice it will make backsliding unthinkable. A man can no more maintain his daily communion with God and commit sin than he can be honest and steal at the same time. What was true in apostolic days is true in the twentieth century: "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not" (I John 3:6).

By the "morning watch" we mean that time of quiet and unhurried waiting upon the Lord in prayer and Bible reading early in the day. It means that, before the face of man is seen, the face of God is sought. It means that

before the legitimate demands of the day's business are faced, before those hundred-and-one duties are begun, the soul gives the "dew of the morning" to private worship and meditation. Just as in the tithing of our money we should give, not the last ten cents of every dollar, but the first ten cents, to the Lord's treasury, so in the tithing of our time we should give the first and best part of the day to secret communion with Him who is, above all else, the Lover of our souls.

Alone with God, the world forbidden,

Alone with God, O blest retreat!

Alone with God and in Him hidden,

To hold with Him communion sweet.

Satan fears and attacks the early morning watch more than any other Christian exercise. He knows from long observation that all decays of the soul begin in neglect of the secret place of prayer. Joy will subside, personal witnessing will become perfunctory, and the subtle snares of worldliness will become harder to resist, if the Christian is cheated of his time alone with God first thing in the morning. It is said of Martin Luther that he once declared, "I shall be so busy today, I must have two hours in prayer with God."

In the diary of the saintly Robert Murray McChesney are two significant entries: (1) October 17: "Private meditation exchanged for conversation. Here is the root of the evil—forsake God and He forsakes us." (2) October 23: "Rose early to seek God, and found Him whom my soul loveth. Who would not rise early to meet such company?"

The value of the morning watch is incalculable. Not only does the soul pour itself out in worship and intercession before a listening God; more important is the glorious thrill of hearing God speak to a listening saint. Through His Word and by His Spirit He speaks to all who will, in faith and obedience, wait upon Him in the morning trysting hour. Fortified by that voice of power, encouraged by that word of promise, and challenged by that heavenly utterance, the soul goes forth into the battle and opportunity of the day ready for all His perfect will.

'Tis there I find new strength for duty,

As o'er the sands of time I plod;

I see the King in all His beauty

While resting there alone with God.

To regularly practice the "morning watch" calls for something more than pious aspiration. It demands discipline and common sense. The fatal fascination of keeping late hours must be resisted. Very few people can arise early and fresh for their morning devotions if they persistently talk with their friends into the midnight hour!

It has been well said that "the future of the world is in the hands of disciplined men." When will even the holiness people of today get down to the sweet discipline of having, at all costs, a regular "morning watch"?

—Herald of Holiness

## FROM THE ALLIANCE TREASURER

To date, we have only received 28% of the Superintendent Salary budget, and 29% of the General Fund. Only nineteen churches have sent in contribution! A situation like this is difficult for your treasurer, and most certainly for our Superintendent. May we hear from your church in January? With more than half of the church year gone, more than 50% of all budgets should be in. Please send all contributions to the Superintendent's Salary and General Fund to Rev. N. E. Trafton, Barker's Point, N. B.